

tially dissolved ; in this case the dissolved portion is precipitated in combination with iodine, if the acid be diluted with water, of a splendid and intense blue colour, while the portion of the membrane, the organic structure of which has not been destroyed, although it has undergone a considerable breaking up, exhibits the blue colour but weakly in proportion, and frequently appears green on account of the preponderating intensity of the yellow colour. Since in this manner a perfect destruction of the organization of the secondary incrusting layers renders it possible for the reaction of cellulose toward iodine and sulphuric acid to manifest itself, it is certainly conceivable that in cases where the sulphuric acid is not in a condition to affect a membrane, cellulose may be present in it, but be protected from the action of the acid by the incrusting matter, and thus rendered imperceptible.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Palæontographica : Beiträge zur Naturgeschichte der Vorwelt. Herausgegeben von Dr. W. DUNKER und HERM. VON MEYER. 1 Band, 1 Lieferung.—*Palæontographica : Contributions to the Natural History of the Antediluvian Æra.* Edited by Dr. WILLIAM DUNKER and HERMANN VON MEYER. Vol. i. part 1. 4to. 44 pp. and six plates.

Under this title the editors intend giving full descriptions of remarkable fossils hitherto unpublished, illustrated by accurate and highly finished plates. The first part contains: 1. A description of a new species of *Pterodactylus*, *Pt. Gemmingii*, by Hermann von Meyer, followed by a synoptical table of all the sixteen species hitherto known of that highly interesting genus of flying Saurians. 2. A description of *Aspidura Ludenii*, by Friedrich von Hagenow,—a very curious species of *Ophiuridæ* found in the "Muschelkalk" near Jena. 3. A description of a superb palate of *Myliobatis Testæ*, new species, from Sicily; of *Tornatella abbreviata*, new species from the Gosau formation; and two teeth of *Squalidæ*, found near Cassel. 4. A description of *Omphalomela scabra*, a fossil trunk of a plant found in the limestone banks of the Keuper formation near Kölleda in Thuringia, by Professor Germar. 5. Description of several new plants from the copper-slate formation of Richelsdorf, by J. Althaus, with a synopsis of all the plants hitherto met with in that formation. 6. Descriptions of several new species of shells, partly marine, partly fluviatile, recently discovered near Halberstadt in a sandstone belonging to the lias formation, and highly remarkable from their perfect preservation, which allows in many cases of their colours being recognised. 7. Enumeration of the fossil shells occurring in the tertiary formation of Magdeburg, by Dr. Philippi.